MEDICAL POLICY STATEMENT
WEST VIRGINIA MARKETPLACE PLANS

Policy Name	Policy Number	Date Effective
Personal Emergency Response System	MM-0946	08/01/2020
Policy Type		
MEDICAL	Administrative	Pharmacy	Reimbursement

Medical Policy Statement prepared by CSMG Co. and its affiliates (including CareSource) are derived from literature based on and supported by clinical guidelines, nationally recognized utilization and technology assessment guidelines, other medical management industry standards, and published MCO clinical policy guidelines. Medically necessary services include, but are not limited to, those health care services or supplies that are proper and necessary for the diagnosis or treatment of disease, illness, or injury and without which the patient can be expected to suffer prolonged, increased or new morbidity, impairment of function, dysfunction of a body organ or part, or significant pain and discomfort. These services meet the standards of good medical practice in the local area, are the lowest cost alternative, and are not provided mainly for the convenience of the member or provider. Medically necessary services also include those services defined in any Evidence of Coverage documents, Medical Policy Statements, Provider Manuals, Member Handbooks, and/or other policies and procedures.

Medical Policy Statements prepared by CSMG Co. and its affiliates (including CareSource) do not ensure an authorization or payment of services. Please refer to the plan contract (often referred to as the Evidence of Coverage) for the service(s) referenced in the Medical Policy Statement. If there is a conflict between the Medical Policy Statement and the plan contract (i.e., Evidence of Coverage), then the plan contract (i.e., Evidence of Coverage) will be the controlling document used to make the determination.

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A. Subject

Personal Emergency Response System (PERS)

B. Background

Personal Emergency Response Systems can provide safety, medication adherence, and allow for independent living when part of the physician's prescribed plan of treatment.

C. Definitions

- **Personal Emergency Response System –** Includes telecommunications equipment, a central monitoring station, and a medium for two-way, hands-free communication between the individual and the station. Personnel at the station respond to an individual's alarm signal via the individuals PERS equipment. This does not include remote video monitoring of the individual in their home or systems that only connect to emergency service personnel.

D. Policy

I. The use of a Personal Emergency Response System in a member's home may be medically necessary when all of the following criteria are met:

A. Documentation by the member's physician of:
1. The specific clinical diagnoses and/or physical-functional limitations which serve as an indication for a Personal Emergency Response System
2. How the Personal Emergency Response System specifically will improve member safety and facilitate continued residence in the home setting

B. The member retains an appropriate cellular or landline phone system that will support the PERS device.

C. To be eligible for PERS service, the member is assessed to be:
1. Frail and functionally impaired;
2. Living alone or with another functionally impaired person;
3. Willing to arrange for private line telephone service if private line is not currently in place OR willing to sign a form saying that they have accepted a wireless cellular device as an alternative; or
4. Mentally and physically able to use the equipment appropriately.

E. Conditions of Coverage

F. Related Policies/Rules

G. Review/Revision History

	DATE	ACTION
Date Issued	01/01/2016	
Date Revised	06/06/2016	
Date Effective	08/01/2020	Updated title – was Emergency Response Systems; added definitions, added D. I. C., updated background.

| Date Archived | 07/01/2021 | |

H. References

1. Thorton, K., & Caprio, Y. (2018, July). *Community-Based Care.* Retrieved on April 2, 2020 from https://geriatricscareonline.org
2. AgingInPlace. (2020, April). Comprehensive Guide to Personal Emergency Response Systems. Retrieved April 3, 2020 from https://www.aginginplace.org
3. Stokke, R. (2016, July). *The Personal Emergency Response System as a* Technology Innovation in Primary Health Care Services: An Integrative Review. Retrieved on April 3, 2020 from https://www.jmir.org
4. National Council on Aging. (n.d.). *Fall Prevention Facts.* Retrieved April 3, 2020 from https://www.ncoa.org

The Medical Policy Statement detailed above has received due consideration as defined in the Medical Policy Statement Policy and is approved.